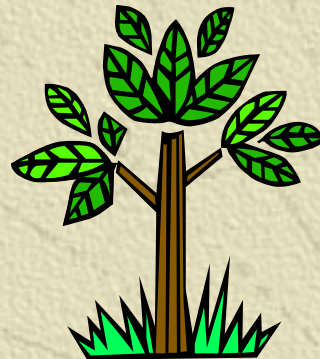


Roots of Democracy




Why did the colonies need Representative Government?

✧ 1. Distance

- ◆ England was thousands of miles away & colonists needed to make own laws to keep peace & order.

✧ Examples:

- ◆ Mayflower Compact
- ◆ Fundamental Orders of Connecticut
- ◆ House of Burgesses



✦ 2. Parliament: Colonists were accustomed to English traditions & structures.

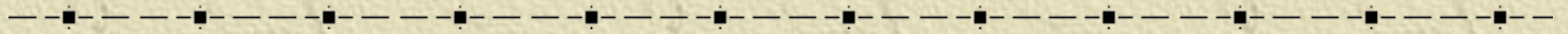
✦ 3. “Everyone was doing it”: most colonies were self-governing, electing members of their community to a general assembly, which made their laws.

- ◆ Religious groups contributed because they created communities that were self-governed.

Democracy is . .

- A system of government in which citizens:
 - Vote for their leaders
 - Have specific rights and responsibilities

Democracy came from many sources:



The Magna Carta (1215)



- ✦ British Document
- ✦ King John was forced to recognize his power was limited by the Barons
- ✦ First step toward limited government
- ✦ Insured a **trial by jury**
- ✦ Idea behind the 5th & 7th Amendments in the U.S. Constitution

House of Burgesses

- ✦ Founded at Jamestown in 1619
- ✦ First **representative** legislature in the English colonies
- ✦ Served as a model for other colonies



Mayflower Compact



- ✦ In 1620, 41 men from the Mayflower ship signed a compact promising to write and obey "just and equal laws ... for the general good of the colony."
- ✦ The compact brought an element of democracy to America and was an example of the practice of self-government in the colonies

Fundamental Orders of Connecticut

- ✦ In 1639, men from 3 townships created laws, rules, and orders for how the colony would be ruled
- ✦ Powers not given to colony, given to towns
- ✦ **Considered the first written constitution in North America**



English Bill of Rights (1689)

- ✦ Laws are created by **Parliament**, not the King or Queen
- ✦ Protected rights to trial by jury
- ✦ Outlawed cruel and unusual punishment



Individual Rights for All English People

Parliament: England's Version of Congress

- ✦ Like our Congress in the U.S., England's Parliament has two houses within it. (Bicameral)

U.S. – Senate/House of Representatives (Legislature)

Parliament – House of Commons/House of Lords

- ✦ Parliament allows colonies to form their own assemblies

- ✦ 2. How was representative government limited in the Colonies?

- ✦ Parliament can overrule colonial assemblies.

- ✦ Colonists had no voice in Parliament (No seats in the House of Commons/Lords)



The Zenger Trial

✦ John Peter Zenger – publisher of the *New-York Weekly*

✦ Criticized the Governor of New York for fixing an election

✦ Zenger was put in jail

✦ At the trial Andrew Hamilton claimed that people had the right to speak (write) the *truth*

✦ Zenger was set free by the jury

✦ **What do you think this set a precedence for?**

A Closer Look...

The Virginia House of Burgesses (1619) – first representative assembly in the colonies. Representatives (elected by the people) immediately began to enact laws and to safeguard individual rights. Setting precedent in the colonies for individual rights protected by law (British law did not provide for individual rights.)

Mayflower Compact (1620) – established the idea of self-government and majority rule. Signed by most of the men on the Mayflower, this compact was an agreement to form a political body and give it the power to enact laws for the good of the colony. It provided a model for later development of representative government. A social contract where all agreed to abide by these rules.

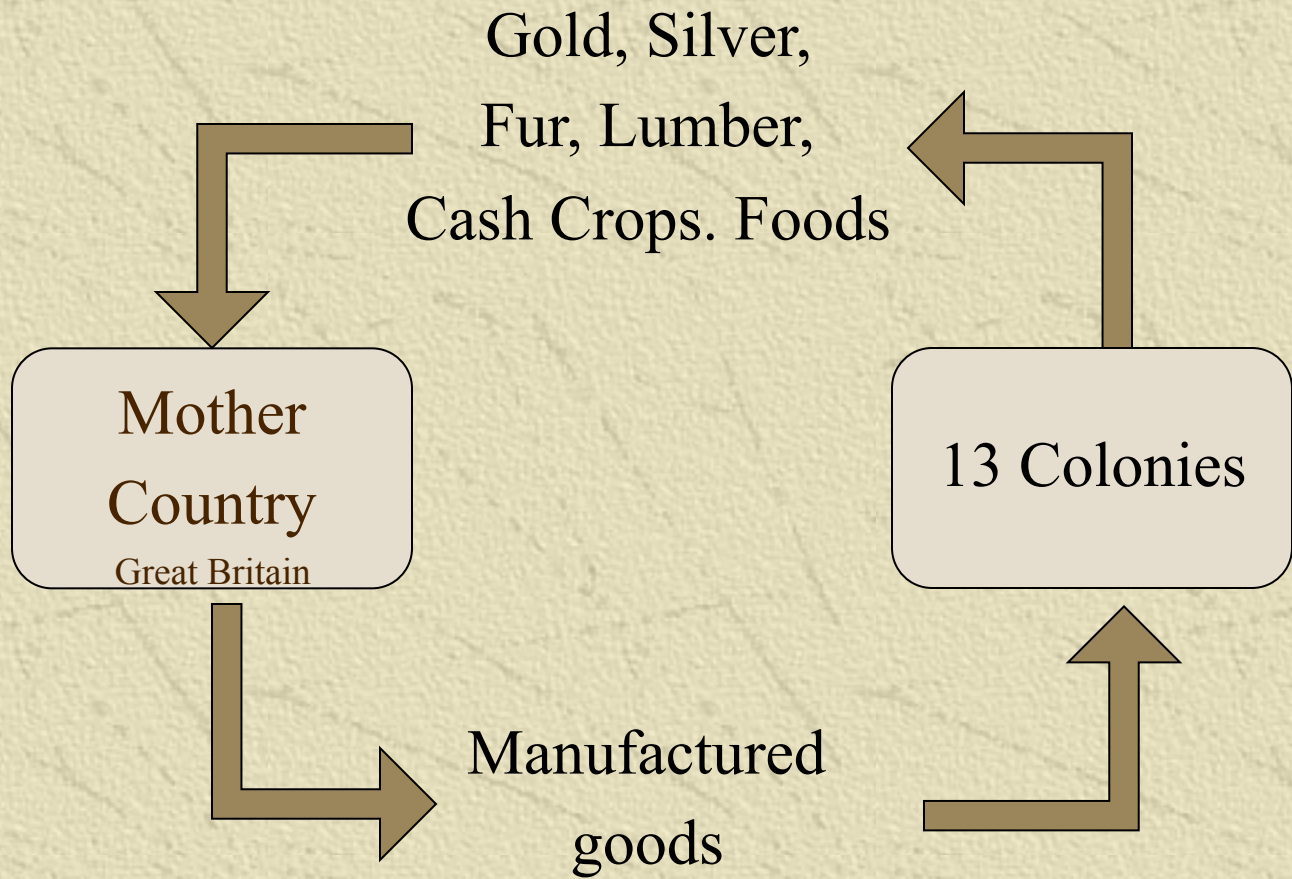
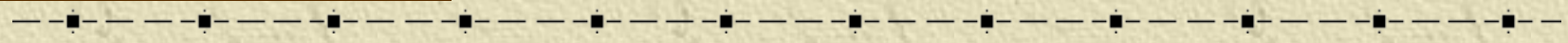
The Fundamental Orders of Connecticut (1638) – first written constitution in the colonies. This document stated that people had the right to elect governors, judges, and a legislature. Was written by the people; the fact that it was written down gave it credence.

Economics:

- ✦ Mercantilism: policy of using colonies to bring wealth (gold and silver) to the “Mother Country”.
- ✦ Great Britain thought that the colonists should sell cash crops to the Mother Country and buy more expensive manufactured (finished) goods in return.

Mercantilism

Draw this:



Transatlantic Slave Trade

(Triangular Trade)

By the 1700s, the colonies had become involved with several trading partners. The most important of these became known as the triangular trades- since each of these routes formed a triangle.

Growth in trade encouraged the rise of port towns like Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and Charleston.

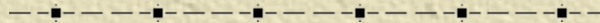
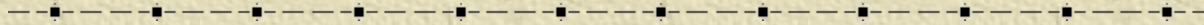
As the North American colonies grew, their trade became increasingly important to Britain for its own economic well-being.

Another important aspect of the triangular trade between Europe, Africa, and the Americas was that it helped disperse African slaves throughout the Western Hemisphere.

http://www.eduplace.com/kids/socsci/books/applications/imaps/maps/g5s_u3/



Religious: The Great Awakening



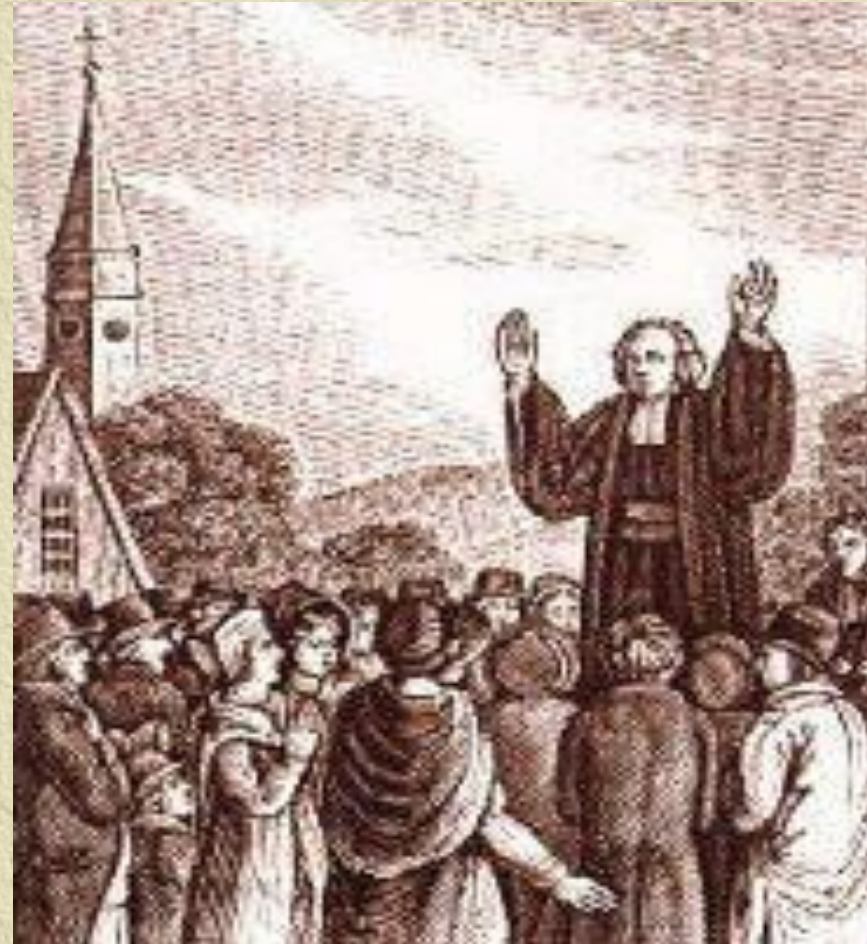
The First Great Awakening

Many 1730's colonists felt these things:

- a) Their grandparents had more religious feelings than they did
- b) Church had become stale to them

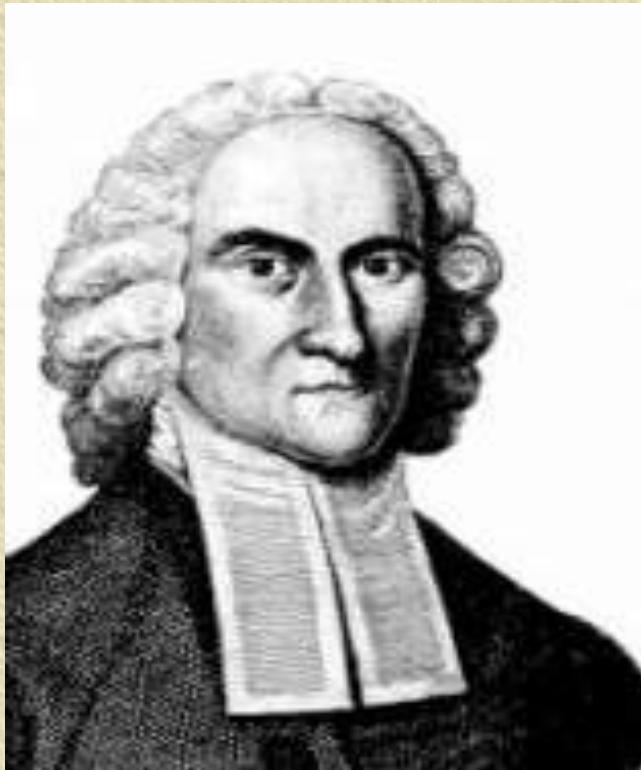
Great Awakening:

- religious movement that occurred during the 1730's and 1740's

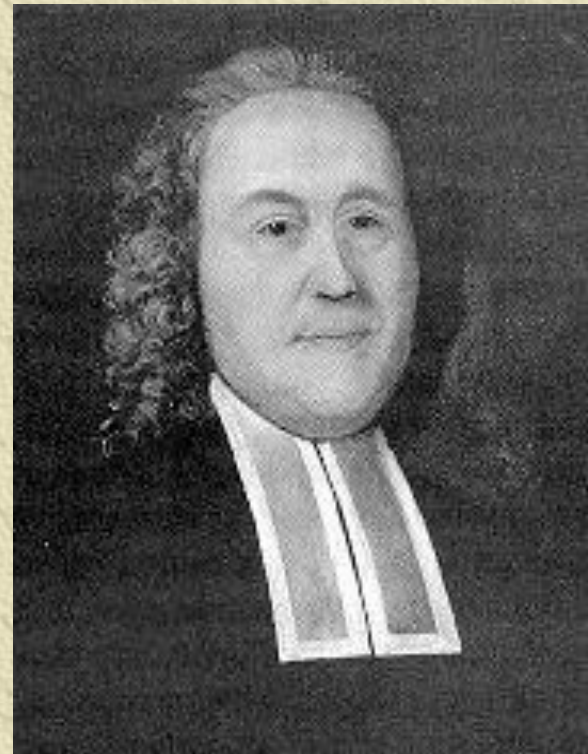


Important People of the Great Awakening

✦ Jonathon Edwards



✦ George Whitefield



Edwards and Whitefield

- ✦ The First Great Awakening was a time of religious focus on an inward focus.
 - ◆ (get your heart right with God and everything else will fall into place).
- ✦ Jonathan Edwards preached about God's anger and salvation.
- ✦ George Whitefield wanted people to give money for orphanages.

Ideals that were Stressed during the Great Awakening

- ✦ 1. Churches were split & grow into different denominations: Baptists, etc...
- ✦ 2. Ideas of Individual Worth, EQUALITY
 - ◆ Challenges Slavery
- ✦ 3. Right to Challenge Authority
- ✦ 4. Eventually, prepares the Colonists to Break Away from England



The Enlightenment

A movement in history in which people tried to use reason and logic to understand the world.

History of the Enlightenment

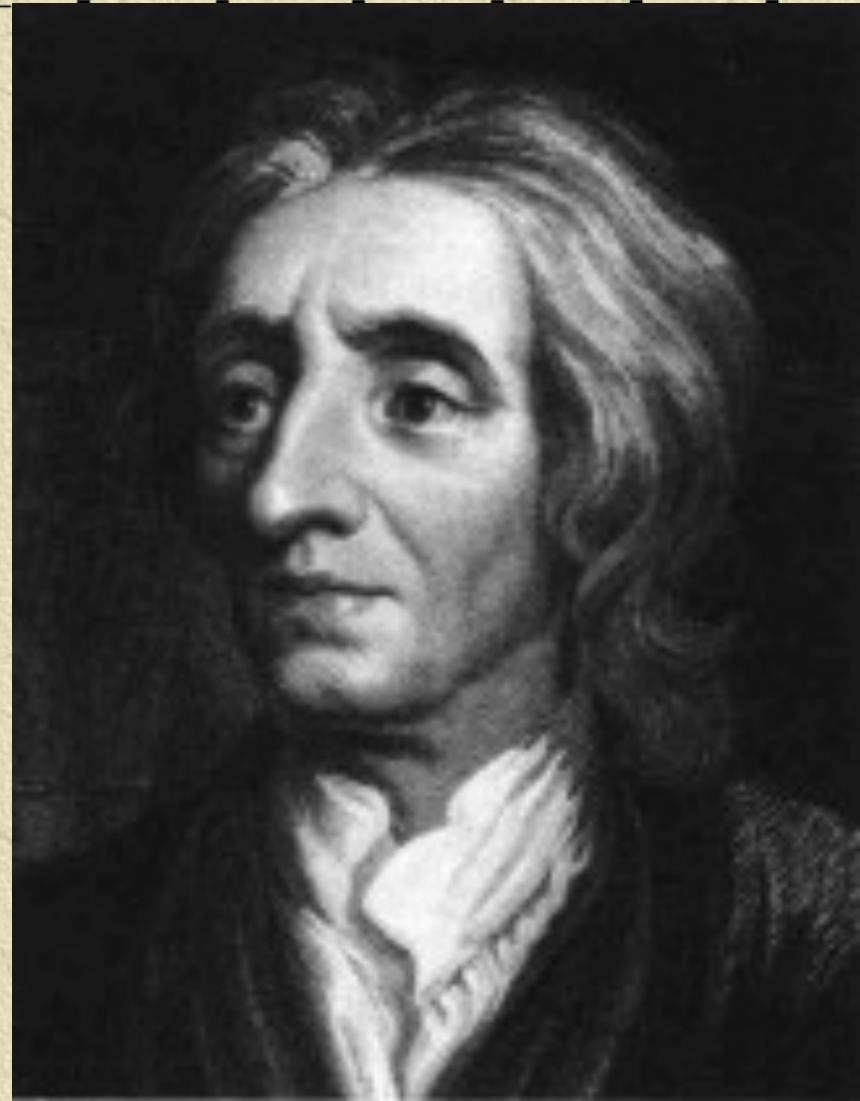
- ✦ Began in Europe
- ✦ Tried to figure out the Natural Laws that Controlled the Universe
- ✦ Example: Gravity
- ✦ Sir Isaac Newton focus on the science portion of the Enlightenment period.



An Important Man: John Locke

★ *Two Treatises (TRE-tis-ez) on Government.*

-
- a) **Social Contract** – the government and those who are governed have a contract (whether written down or no)
 - b) **Government's Role** – Protect the NATURAL RIGHTS or **Unalienable Rights** of citizens. Which are:
 - c) **(Life, Liberty, and Property)**
 - d) **People's Role** – If the government doesn't honor "NATURAL RIGHTS", THE PEOPLE HAVE THE RIGHT TO REBEL!!!



What Enlightenment ideas led colonists to break away from England?

- ✦ 1. Government should protect people's natural rights
- ✦ 2. If the government did not protect these rights then the people could **BREAK AWAY**

Charles de Montesquieu

- ✦ expanded on Locke's beliefs, added the judiciary to Locke's
- ✦ executive and legislature; wrote of the separation of powers; believed that in a republic, education is an absolute necessity.
- ✦ In other words, wrote about the separation of powers in a government.

William Blackstone:

An English judge, jurist, and professor who wrote the historical and definitive pre-Revolutionary War source of common law; believed strongly in

religious tolerance;

supported self-defense (became 2nd Amendment)

wrote about “natural rights” (including life & liberty on a woman’s legal rights: “By marriage, the husband and the wife are one person in the law... the very being and legal existence of the woman is suspended during the marriage.”)